(b) if so, by when will it be released; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a Memorandum in September, 1997 seeking additional assistance of Rs. 831.33 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of drought conditions during South-West Monsoon 1997-98. The National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) approved Rs. 30.00 crore from the NFCR to the State Government for meeting the situation arising out of drought conditions. This amount was released to the State by the Ministry of Finance on 14th January, 1998.

(c) Does not arise.

विदेशों में शवों का दाह-संस्कार

*334. **प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) किन-किन देशों में हिन्दुओं को दाह-संस्कार की अनुमति नहीं है;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने इस मामले पर उन देशों के साथ बातचीत की है; और

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस मामले को मानव-अधिकारों के अन्तर्गत अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मंचों पर उठाया है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) से (ग) विश्व में 24 देश ऐसे हैं जहां शवों के दाह संस्कार की अनुमति नहीं है। ये हैं सऊदी अरब, कतर, जोर्डन, कुवैत, सेनेगल, गाम्बिया, माली, मारितानिया, केप वर्दे आइलैंड, गिनी विसाऊ, ट्यूनिशिया, टर्की, यूनान, इजराइल, लीबिया, बुर्किना फासो, माल्टा, मालदीव, आइवरी कोस्ट, नाइजर, गिनी माक्रोनेशिया, पराग्वे और तुर्कमेनिस्तान।

जब इस मामले को उपरिलिखित देशों के सम्बन्धित अधिकारियों के समक्ष उठाया गया तब उनमें से कुछ देशों ने भारत सरकार के इस अनुरोध को स्वीकार न कर पाने के कारण औपचारिक रूप से खेद व्यक्त किया क्योंकि इससे उनके अपने नियमों, प्रथाओं और उन औपचारिक विधिक सम्मति का उल्लंघन होता है जिसमें यह विनिर्दिष्ट है कि शवों का अन्तिम संस्कार करने का एक मात्र उपाय दफन करना है। कुछ देशों ने यह जानकारी दी है कि उनके यहां दाह संस्कार स्थल नहीं है और एक देश ने यह कहा है कि परंपरावादी चर्च शवों के दाह संस्कार की अनुमति नहीं देते हैं।

मृतक के सगे संबंधियों को, यदि वे चाहें तो शव को ऐसे नजदीकी देश में ले जाने की अनुमति दी जाती है जहां दाह संस्कार की अनुमति होती है अथवा उन्हें शवों को दाह संस्कार के लिए अपने देश में ले जाने दिया जाता है। ये नियम और प्रथाएं सभी धर्मों को मानने वालों पर लागू होते हैं। इस तरह से हिन्दुओं के विरुद्ध कोई विशेष प्रकार का भेदभाव नहीं किया जाता। इसमें मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन का कोई मामला नहीं बनता अतः सरकार ने इस मामले को अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मंच पर नहीं उठाया है।

Agreement on Light Water Nuclear Reactors

*335. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is going to sign or has signed an agreement with Russia for the supply of 1000 MW Light Water Nuclear Reactors;

(b) if so, how the tariff of electricity will compare with other reactors and electricity generated by other sources;

(c) what is the Time and cost over runs of other heavy water reactors in India; and what are the causes for the same; and

(d) whether Government are adopting Fast Breeder Technology for generation of electricity (Power) in the country and if so, what is the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) India and the Russian Federation have signed a Supplement to the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) of 1988 on 21.6.98 for setting up two 1000 MWe Light water Reactors at Kudankulam in

Tamil Nadu. It is premature at this stage to work out the exact tariff from these reactors as it would be firmed up only after the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is ready, However, it will compare favourably with tariff from nuclear and coal thermal plants commissioned around the time when these reactors would become operational.

(c) The anticipated time over-runs of the plants under construction *viz.* Kaiga 1 & 2 and RAPP 3 & 4 are 40 months and 31 months respectively from the expected dates of criticality at the time of sanction of this revised project cost in 1992-93. These over-runs being absorbed to some extent by parallel working and crashing of down-stream activities by employing more resources and offering incentive to contractors as well as employees of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.

The anticipated cost over-runs in respect of kaiga 1&2 is Rs. 415 crore over and above the revised sanctioned cost of Rs. 2275 crore (1992-93) while in respect of RAPP 34 it is Rs. 161 crore over and above the revised sanctioned cost of Rs. 2107 crore (1992-93). The major reasons for time and cost over runs of these projects are as follows:—

(i) Delay in execution of civil works due to revisions in the civil drawings made according to the new guidelines issued by the regulatory authorities.

(ii) The incident of delamination on 13.5.94 in the Kaiga dome leading to the regulatory authority putting a hold on further construction of the inner containment structure and the consequent re-engineering.

(iii) Delay in release of area for mechanical and electrical works.

(iv) Delay in delivery of some of the equipment by the vendors.

(d) Yes, Sir. The adoption of Fast Breeder Technology for the generation of electricity is the second stage of the three stage strategy of our nuclear power programme which envisages the setting up of Plutonium fuelled Fast Breeder Reactors for power generation. The design and development of a 500 MWe Fast Breeder Reactor is in progress and construction is expected to commence towards the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Referring of Issues pertaining to 5th Pay Commission to Fast Track Committee

*336. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the issues that stand referred to the fast track committee set-up following the 5th Pay Commission's recommendations;

(b) whether these include issues relating to revision of (i) pay scales of Section Officer/Desk Officers of CSS, and (ii) the Desk Officers, allowance;

(c) whether the Desk Officers are still drawing Desk Officers' allowance at pre-revised rates; if so, the reasons for delay in the decision; and

(d) by when a decision would be taken by Government on the issues stated in para (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANA): (a) The Fast Track Committee set up vide DOP&T's order No. 2/24/97-PIC dated the 21st July, 1997 was required to consider the following exceptional cases:

(i) To examine the relativities in pay scale in respect of motorman–mail drivers and diesel assistants under the Ministry of Railways.